

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-30 were pending in the application. Claims 19, 20, and 29 are hereby cancelled without prejudice to pursuing the cancelled claims in this or other continuing applications. Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 23-25 are withdrawn as being drawn to non-elected subject matter. Claims 1, 3, 12, 14, 16, and 18, have been amended. Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-10, 12-18, 23-25, and 30 will be pending and under active consideration. Claims 1, 18, and 25 are independent.

In response to the Office Action entitled "Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121" dated April 8, 2004 (Paper No. 23), Applicants respectfully submit that the inadvertent errors in the claim status identifiers required for each of the pending claims have been corrected herein. In accordance with the Examiner's request, Applicants have also clarified the status of canceled Claims 18, 19, 20, and 29 by not reproducing the text of each of the canceled claims. In addition, the Examiner had indicated that Claim 10 was not original Claim 10. Applicants respectfully point out that claim 10 had been inadvertently misentered. Applicants have corrected this inadvertent error and have provided the correct text of Claim 10 as originally filed. Accordingly, to be fully responsive under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121(h), Applicants have provided herewith the required entire "Amendments to the Claims" Section of the Response filed on January 23, 2004 (Paper No. 20). This document provides the full set pending Claims, Claims 1-10, 12-18, 23-25, and 30. The document also provides the claim status identifier required for each claim. This set of claims replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Applicants respectfully request entry remarks made herein into the file history of the present invention.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicants believe there is no fee due in connection with this filing. However, to the extent required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account 50-1710 or credit any overpayment to same.

Respectfully submitted,



Serge Sira, Ph.D.
Registration No. 39.445
Gilberto M. Villacorta, Ph.D.
Registration No. 34,038

Attachment: Exhibit A

Patent Administrator
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN
525 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3693
Facsimile: (312) 902-1061

Dated: July 28, 2004